

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06323 160757Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W
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R 160751Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8877

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EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, KS

SUBJECT: AMERICAN MOTORS IN KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 198290, (B) SEOUL 6104

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES REF A OUTLINING DEPTOFFS'S CONVERSATION WITH VAN MERKENSTEIJN AND IS PLEASED WITH THE EFFORT MADE TO CONVINCE VAN MERKENSTEIJN THAT DEFENSE INDUSTRY STATUS CANNOT BE OBTAINED BY AMERICAN MOTORS/SHINJIN JEEP.

2. CONTENTS OF REF A WERE REVIEWED WITH AMC LOCAL REP RICHARD PHELAN WHO CONFIRMED AGAIN HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT AMERICAN MOTORS IS NOW PREPARED TO SELL ITS STOCK FOR ABOUT \$2 MILLION AND NEGOTIATE A LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH KIA MOTORS AS OUTLINED IN REF B. PHELAN SAID HIS AUTHORITY WAS OBTAINED WHILE ON HOME LEAVE FROM JOHN C. SECHREST, AMC GROUP VICE PRESIDENT. SECHREST WILL ARRIVE IN KOREA SEPTEMBER 15 AND WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY.

3. PHELAN WAS RATHER FRUSTRATED BY VAN MERKENSTEIJN'S CONTINUED INSISTENCE ABOUT DEFENSE INDUSTRY STATUS AND THE NOTE DELIVERED TO ROKG MINISTER YANG. PHELAN DOES NOT HAVE A COPY

OF THIS MEMORANDUM, AND IF DEPARTMENT FEELS MEMORANDUM WOULD BE OF VALUE TO THE EMBASSY PRIOR TO THE VAN MERKENSTEIJN/ SECHREST VISIT, A COPY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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Message Attributes

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